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# LETTER DATED 14 AUGUST 1991 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of a joint letter from the Secretary of State of the United States of America, James A. Baker, III, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Aleksandr A. Bessmertnykh, to you regarding the peace process in Central America, and a joint statement on USSR-United States cooperation in Central America (see annexes).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex and enclosure circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Thomas R. PICKERING
Permanent Representative
of the United States
of America to the
United Nations

(Signed) Valentin V. LOZINSKIY
Acting Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics to the
United Nations

Annex

Letter dated 1 August 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Secretary of State of the United States of America addressed to the Secretary-General

The Presidents of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have just concluded a summit meeting in Moscow at which our two Governments agreed to significant reductions in strategic arms and to cooperate closely in the search for peace throughout the world. We discussed the progress being made to complete the Central American peace process by bringing peace to El Salvador and Guatemala. We took note of the great strides made in El Salvador last April under your leadership to reach fundamental agreement on constitutional amendments on all the major issues before the parties: armed forces reform, separation of the security forces from the army, judicial and electoral reform and human rights. We also recognized the progress made in defining terms and modalities of a cease-fire and are pleased that the ONUSAL human rights monitoring group began to function last month.

At the same time, we are deeply concerned that the peace process has not continued to move forward since May. We consider it imperative to reach an early cease-fire agreement in order to avoid putting the major gains made in the peace process at risk. After 15 months of negotiations, it is critical to bring this tragic conflict to an end and permit the normalization and economic growth of all of Central America.

Accordingly, we join in calling on you, Mr. Secretary-General, to take personal leadership of the negotiating process and press both sides to reach rapid agreement on remaining political issues, agreement on a cease-fire, creating appropriate conditions for the full integration of all groups into political life and for national reconciliation. The United States and the Soviet Union are prepared to extend full cooperation to this intensified effort in the context of the Security Council and bilaterally. We offer to join together with you and with the Friends of the Secretary-General to cooperate with a new negotiating round on an intensive basis so that we might offer our full support to help bring the parties to a resolution and help overcome any difficulties. Your own role in this process is critical, of course. The sense of urgency and high priority which your personal and direct leadership of a new negotiating round will send are essential for its success. We look forward to your early response.

James A. BAKER, III
Secretary of State

Aleksandr A. BESSMERTNYKH
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Joint statement of 1 August 1991 on USSR-United States cooperation in Central America

Minister for Foreign Affairs Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and United States Secretary of State James Baker noted positive trends in Central America towards a settlement of contentious regional problems at the negotiating table and relaxation of tension through national reconciliation. Within this context, the Soviet Foreign Minister and the United States Secretary of State welcomed the resolution of the conflict in Nicaragua, the important accords reached in April between the Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, and the launching of a dialogue between the Government of Guatemala and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity Group.

They pointed out that the Soviet-United States cooperation in Central America and the adjacent areas promotes stronger stability in Latin America. The two sides agreed that additional joint steps should be made in the interest of assisting the entire spectrum of the Esquipulas accords, including democratization, cease-fire, and a settlement of the current conflicts, national reconciliation, economic development and regional disarmament.

The Soviet Foreign Minister and the United States Secretary of State urged the United Nations and other international organizations, as well as countries outside the region, including Cuba, to intensify their efforts to resolve the remaining political problems, ensure a cease-fire and finally settle the conflict in El Salvador peacefully. They expressed resolute support for the United Nations Secretary-General's efforts to help negotiate an end to the conflict in El Salvador and urged him to participate personally in the talks to promote a final settlement. They also firmly declared in support of an active involvement of the Secretary-General's Friends - Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico and Spain - in the peace process. As members of the United Nations Security Council, the two sides expressed readiness to play an active constructive role in supporting the talks and implementing accords on a final settlement.

The Soviet Union and the United States are convinced that an end to the conflict in El Salvador will promote the economic development of Central America and will help eliminate the remaining seats of tension in the Caribbean, thereby contributing to further peaceful integration of Latin America.

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